

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed October 31, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6-16

Claims 1-4 and 6-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pugaczewski, et al.* ("Pugaczewski," U.S. Pat. No. 6,903,755) in view of *Hsieh, et al.* ("Hsieh," U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0158900).

As indicated above, remaining independent claims 1, 7, and 12 have been amended through this Response. In view of those amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are moot.

With particular regard to the merits of independent claim 1, neither Pugaczewski nor Hsieh discloses providing a graphical user interface (GUI) that enables an operator of the service provider to construct virtual local area networks (VLANs) between clients on remote client networks and service provider computers on the service provider network using a process that is the same regardless of the configurations of the remote client networks.

Regarding independent claims 7 and 12, neither Pugaczewski nor Hsieh discloses means or logic for providing a graphical user interface (GUI) that enables an operator of the service provider to construct virtual local area networks (VLANs) between clients on remote client networks and service provider computers on the

service provider network using a process that is the same regardless of the configurations of the remote client networks.

B. Rejection of Claim 5

Claims 5 and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hsieh* as applied to claim 4, and further in view of *McNally, et al.* ("McNally," U.S. Pat. No. 6,259,448). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As identified above, Pugaczewski and Hsieh do not disclose aspects of Applicant's claims. In that McNally does not remedy the deficiencies of the Pugaczewski and Hsieh references, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is allowable over the Pugaczewski/Hsieh/McNally combination for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable over Pugaczewski/Hsieh.

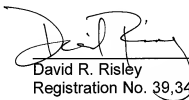
II. Canceled Claims

Claims 17-19 have been canceled from the application without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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